United Nations S/2005/770

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 January 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 7 December 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Uganda observations on the report of the Security Council mission to Central Africa, 4 to 11 November 2005

Yesterday, in the Security Council, I gave a brief comment by way of response to the report of the Security Council mission to Central Africa, 4 to 11 November 2005 (S/2005/716). In addition, I have further instructions from my Government to bring the following to your attention concerning the report:

(1) With regard to the recommendations contained in section V of the report, recommendation 19 presupposes that Uganda does not respect the sovereignty of neighbouring States, which is not true. As President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni told the United Nations mission, the issue is not the threats but the real presence and activities of negative forces in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Indeed, Uganda, as a full-fledged Member of the United Nations, is fully aware of its obligations;

(2) Recommendation 20 would suggest that Uganda is extending support to remnant militias, which is not the case. Uganda does not give any support to Congolese militias and has, in fact, expelled those who sought asylum in Uganda in June 2005 and in November 2005. Uganda handed over to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) 60 Congolese militias who had fled pressure from MONUC and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(3) Recommendation 21, calling for cooperation with the United Nations, remains redundant, as the Uganda Government not only is already cooperating with the United Nations and MONUC, in particular, but is also supporting the operations of MONUC in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by providing Entebbe Airport facilities, for example, and, indeed, Uganda has a clear track record of supporting international efforts to assist the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for instance, assistance to the French-led multilateral force (Artemis). And, indeed, Uganda is in the process of also providing support to the United Nations Mission in the Sudan operations in southern Sudan;

(4) Recommendation 22 on liaison officers: it is the view of the Uganda Government that the question of studying is unnecessary and it calls

06-22499 (E) 060206

instead for the exchange of liaison officers between MONUC, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Uganda Armed Forces;

(5) With regard to recommendations 23 and 24, Uganda would like to state that in addition to taking all possible necessary measures on its side of the border, Uganda recommended that MONUC and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo consider acquiring radar to be able to detect possible arms deliveries by air through the over 300 air strips in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Uganda reiterated its commitment to ensure that the arms embargo is not violated from the Uganda side. The Government of Uganda has always been ready and willing to cooperate with the group of experts on the United Nations arms embargo, but the problem has been the following unbecoming working methods of the group:

(a) They are high-handed, acting as if they were United Nations inspectors and as if sovereign States were under the tutelage of the United Nations;

(b) Their visits are too brief to permit meaningful interaction, for example, they often fail to show up at wrap-up sessions;

(c) They come with allegations lacking substance that would otherwise facilitate verifications and they claim that they are protecting their sources;

(d) They come up with biases which they do not change even when furnished with incontrovertible evidence;

(6) With regard to recommendation 25, the Government has indeed continued to provide the necessary security for provision of humanitarian assistance and called on the United Nations and emphasized to the United Nations mission the need for humanitarian workers to adhere to guidelines such as the use of escorts;

(7) Recommendation 26 is indeed redundant, as the programme exists for the demobilization, reintegration and resettlement of former rebel combatants. In fact, some of them who are still interested and fit to serve in the armed forces have been integrated in the Uganda People's Defence Forces;

(8) With regard to recommendation 27, again it is redundant, as the amnesty exists for all elements wishing to take advantage of it and already many former Lord's Resistance Army combatants are benefiting from the amnesty, including former top commanders.

Lastly, I am attaching herewith the submission of the Government of Uganda on the United Nations Security Council mission to Uganda, which is annexed to the present letter.

I would be very grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Francis K. **Butagira**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 7 December 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Submission of the Government of Uganda on the United Nations Security Council mission to Uganda, 9 November 2005

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kampala

When the United Nations Security Council Mission visited Uganda on Wednesday 9th November, 2005, they were received by H.E President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, at Entebbe Resort Beach Hotel.

During the meeting, H.E. Amb. Jean-Marc de la SABLIERE, PR of France to the UN, the Head of the UN Security Council Mission said this was an opportunity to exchange views on many issues on the region.

A: **BRIEF**

He then gave what he called a brief summary of the main conclusions after their visits to DRC and Burundi:

(i) Democratic Republic of the Congo

(a) He said in DRC, they visited Kinshasa, Kasai and Katanga. He added that what they had seen was encouraging. He cited the transitional process which he said was going in the right direction. He reported that 20 million voters had registered.

(b) He also reported that the UNSC Mission had held conversations with President Kabila, the four Congolese Vice Presidents, the Presidents of the National Assembly and Senate as well as the Independent Electoral Commission. He said that all the Congolese leaders they had met had reaffirmed their commitment to make the peace process and the general elections a success.

(c) He informed that the Referendum on the Congolese Constitution was scheduled to take place on 18th December, 2005; and that Presidential and Legislative Elections would take place before 30th June, 2005. He said that it is important for the UN Security Council and the

International Community for the timetable of the transition to be respected.

(d) He disclosed that the international community is making a huge effort in DRC, notably:

- 18,000 blue helmets;
- assistance towards elections eg USD400 million by the European Union.

He said it is a major priority to make the elections in Congo a success.

(e) He also said that they had discussed the question of setting up an integrated army and new police; and that on this score too, progress had been made such as:

- 6 integrated brigades had been set up;
- 3 more brigades would be in place in December, 2005;
- the plan is to have 18 brigades before 30th June, 2006.

(f) He said a lot had been done to accelerate the process through pressure and assistance by the international community.

- He commended the Congolese police for having shown efficiency on 30 June, 2005(when there were riots against extension of the date of elections);
- He further noted with appreciation that with the assistance of MONUC a new integrated brigade acted in Ituri against Congolese militia and a

battalion was sent to Aba (where the LRA had infiltrated).

(ii) B u r u n d i

On Burundi the Head of the UN Security Council Mission reported that a lot of progress had been made with H.E President Museveni and the help of Tanzania. He said , "we ar very happy to see this success".

He said Burundi is entering a delicate phase of consolidating peace and all the other achievements.

B: **CONCERNS**

(i) **DRC**

The Head of the UN Security Council Mission then raised what he called "concerns" with H.E The President.

(a) **FDLR**

In this connection the Ambassador said his Mission would also meet Rwandese President Paul Kagame on the problem of FDLR which the Ambassador observed is "a problem not only for the neighbouring country but mainly a problem for Congo."

(b) **Congolese militia**

Having said that, the Ambassador pointed to the way the militia are acting in Congo where they have committed a lot of destruction to the detriment of the Congolese population who have been subjected to a lot of suffering.

He said there is real commitment from Congo to settle this issue and that with the assistance of MONUC, they are going in the right direction.

The Ambassador said "in Ituri, we are looking for neutralisation of a group of militia" which he said "is a priority for us". He said that the Congolese brigade with assistance from MONUC is making progress. But that some groups refused to disarm. Here he told President Museveni, "we need your assistance".

- he welcomed Uganda's decision whereby she declared persona non grata some of the leaders of Ituri armed groups;

- he requested your assistance that H.E The President uses all his authority to deal with these militia and deny them any support. At this juncture, the Ambassador requested that later in this meeting the Chairman of the Sanctions Committee of the UN be allowed to say a little more about this issue.

- He sought H.E The President's assistance to have stricter control on the border saying that such controls are aimed at curtailing illegal trafficking of resources and movement of combatants.

(ii) B u r u n d i

He then asked, "we wonder what should be the international community's step to assist?" "Tell us what we could do as UN". He said his Mission would ask the Tanzanian authorities the same question.

He said he was aware Burundians would like to see the UN disengage and that he had no problem with that but that they had agreed that it should be done progressively.

(iii) The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)

The Head of the UN Security Council Mission observed that the LRA had caused humanitarian crisis. He also said that the solution cannot be only the military option.

In response to the above brief and concerns presented by the Head of the UNSC Mission, **H.E PRESIDENT YOWERI MUSEVENI, made the following statement:**

Honourable Members of the United Nations Security Council,

I welcome you to Uganda.

We have met here before, but my comments will be broken down into two parts or essentially one heading. **What is the correct mode of operation between African Countries and the United Nations?**

Some of us have been observing the political scene in Africa for the last 40 years.

There is no major event that has taken place in Africa where I have not been having very close, intimate knowledge of the situation.

My conclusions are two:

(i) When you have collaboration between the Region and the UN, you get correct results;

(ii) When you have the UN acting alone or acting with European countries or Western countries, you may get wrong results.

This is my broad statement. Because you don't read traverse all these miles not to also hear what we are advising you.

Following are examples to support the above conclusions:

(i) **Namibia:** In Namibia, we had success because of collaboration between the Region and the UN; that is when Namibia was fighting for independence.

(ii) **Burindi:** I can quote other examples:

The latest example of correct handling is Burundi:

Burundi was under a Regional Initiative.

Then, later on, we invited the UN. When the UN came, the region remained engaged very closely and we steered the process to a successful conclusion.

At some stage, the region was acting alone; sometimes against the advice of the international community. For instance, when we imposed sanctions on the government of Maj. Pierre Buyoya, the Tutsi government, the region acted alone, the UN did not support us, in fact they were against us. The EU too was against our action. But we were confident that what we were doing was the correct thing to do; we did it and it produced results.

When the UN came in, Mme McAskie, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Burundi, was working with us and we were able to succeed. Why? For two reasons:

(a) **Knowledge**: You can't solve a problem unless you know it.

(b) **Vested interest**: To be interested in the problem and not just to come there as an international civil servant. These are very complicated problems; if you don't have a close interest, you may not put in your maximum energy.

(iii) **Uganda:** In the past, we had problems like Idi Amin in Uganda. Nobody in the world cared about Idi Amin. Between 1971 and 1979, Idi Amin killed almost as many people as the people who were killed in Rwanda during the 1994 genocide, but nobody was interested. It was ourselves alone without the international community; in fact, against the international community, to some extent.

(iv) **Rwanda:** Then you had the problem of genocidaires in Rwanda. What was the attitude of the international community on genocidaires? Nothing! In fact, there was a

UN team here called UNAMIR (United Nations Mission to Rwanda); their mandate was to monitor Uganda and not the genocidaires; to monitor Uganda as if Uganda was the problem. Instead of monitoring the genocidaires, the ones who were killing people.

I used to see fellows from Paraguay and Bangladesh sunbathing in Kabale. The Bangladesh were the first ones to run when there were problems in Rwanda; they became refugees here.

The correct package is partnership between the Region and the UN.

In Burundi, we succeeded because of knowledge and also because of interest; because they are our brothers and sisters, we are the same people.

Tanzania helped us with Idi Amin because we were the same people.

(v) **DRC**

In the case of DRC now, the partnership was broken up. We are the ones who started the Lusaka process as a Region. Then we brought in the UN but since the UN came, we have not been coordinating very closely.

On account of our insistence, recently, we established the Tripartite Plus Joint Commission; the Group of 3+1 - Rwanda, Congo, Uganda and Burundi plus the U.S as Facilitator and I think in our meetings there is the presence of MONUC. This Tripartite was created after our pressure. I could see things off-track; we lost 2 ½ years, almost 3.

I am very proud to hear that the transitional process in Congo is going on very well; 20 million people have registered to vote.

However, the other part.

It should be recalled that the Great Lakes Region problem had two parts:

(a) 50% of the problem was the internal problem of Congo. We are trying to address this through the transitional government, elections etc.

(b) The other 50% of the problem is Congo territory being used by negative forces to threaten the security of neighbouring countries.

In fact this is what sparked off the war in Congo. Congo had been mismanaged for a long time by Mobutu but there was not such a large scale war until Mobutu mixed internal problems of Congo with the problems of the region; he sided with the genocidaires of Rwanda.

The regime of Sudan was allied to Mobutu. You had "une entente cordiale" between the regime of Sudan and Mobutu. That is how this problem exploded.

When the UN solves the internal problem of Congo (transitional government, elections etc), very good! But not without solving the other 50% of the problem ie Congo territory being used by the terrorists. In fact, I call eastern Congo a "terrorist conservation area" and the UN who are involved in this thing must take it seriously.

It is not a favour for us, for Uganda or for Rwanda or for other neighbouring countries to be protected from Congo being used as a terrorist conservation area.

Why do I call it a terrorist conservation area? When our forces withdrew from Congo in March 2003, we handed the area to MONUC. Since that time, almost three years now, the terrorists have not been bothered, nobody is willing to do anything. When a terrorist is not attacked for three years, it means the UN and Congo government have given the terrorists bases against Uganda, against Rwanda etc. A base means, a piece of land where I can live, where I am planning what I am planning to do, where I can replenish, grow food, recruit and train.

For now, three years since March 2003, nobody has been bothering these terrorists. They are just there, relaxed and doing whatever they want to do. I am quite disappointed with MONUC.

One and a half years ago, in Addis Ababa, we met Mr. William Swing, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and Mr. Kofi Anan, UN Secretary General –, Mr. Kofi Anan told us that the UN force in Congo neither had the mandate nor the capacity. Then what are you doing there? You don't have the mandate nor the capacity, and yet it is so vital for us!

We started putting pressure. Eventually we got the Tripartite Plus Joint Commission; this is still a discussion group, not doing anything substantive.

I was recently told by the Congolese government that Brigades would be deployed in the areas occupied by the terrorsts. I have not been monitoring recently, I do not know what is happening. That is one side of the story.

(vi) **Sudan**

On the other side, Uganda has been fighting a lonely battle with the Sudanese-sponsored terrorists.

Bin Laden, before he went to Afghanistan, he started here. He was in Sudan. We were fighting Sudan regime. We defeated these terrorists alone. With no assistance from anywhere. At one time we collaborated with Ethiopia and Eritrea for a few years, then they abandoned us to fight their own war. We stayed alone; we were fighting Sudan alone.

I don't know how many letters I wrote to the Boutros Boutros Ghali (former UN Secretary General) and Kofi Anan (current Secretary General of the UN). I have them, I can give you copies. Nothing was done by the UN. Until we defeated terrorism ourselves.

The humanitarian crisis you are talking about in the North, you are talking about it "in the evening of the problem" i.e when the problem

is almost finished. But we talked to Boutros Ghali and Kofi Anan in the early part i.e when the problem was beginning, they didn't do anything. The World Food Programme is my only ally, the Country Director is always with me distributing food and I salute them.

But otherwise, we dealt with this problem alone and we have defeated the terrorists.

- first of all they have reduced in numbers;

- they recently fled deep inside Sudan and to Garamba national park in DRC;

- There are a few remnants.

Garamba national park and Aba in particular, is under the UN and Congo government. So, we need very serious collaboration because , yes, when terrorists went there, I was pleased that President Kabila sent soldiers to Aba and the UN also gave an ultimatum, but it has not been followed up because we have not had close collaboration, no liaison officers.

- The UN group and President Kabila's government started doing their own things.
- We are in the Sudan together with the SPLM/A are doing our own things.

I have called for Liaison Officers but nothing has been done! We are liaising with you through Kinshasa about terrorists in Garamba.

I proposed:

- "let's have Liaison Officers staying with each other's forces", nothing was done!
- "Let's have Joint Operations", still nothing was done!

So, that problem solved on our side, is now being preserved in Garamba. I saw a report claiming that these people are not in Garamba; it is not serious! All of you have modern technical means

that can detect where somebody is ringing from when he is using a satellite phone or a radio call. All this is being covered up! The fact that these people are in Garamba.

We talked to Congo government about Liaison Officers, I don't know why they are opposed to the idea. That makes it very suspicious. We told them, " have your officers here, and we have our officers there" but they refused, why? We asked them, "tell the UN group let's have Liaison Officers to come and stay with us and ours stay with you, for a common purpose, nothing! They don't want them.

We said, "o.k let's have Joint Operations", they said, "no, we can't have Joint Operations".

So, this lack of seriousness has caused Africa a lot of suffering and we do not want the 1960/61 experience. The UN Intervened in Congo. Okay, their intervention in Congo stopped the disintegration of Congo as a country because Katanga had seceded but was eventually brought together. However, the intervention of the UN in Congo did not stop the murder of Patrice Lumumba (first elected Prime Minister of Congo).

As a consequence, it is now 45 years, Congo has never settled down.

Again UN is in Congo after 45 years, what does this mean?

I am really requesting you: We are not novices. We have solved our problems ourselves, very difficult problems. So, in matters affecting Congo and Uganda – UN you are there, I request two things:

(i) **Joint Operations** with your forces, because you say we are going to Congo to steal timber, come let's go and hunt these terrorists.

(ii) **Liaison Officers**, if you want the problem to be solved.

Inside Uganda (LRA)

About the Humanitarian Crisis, yes, there has been a humanitarian crisis for a long time but now the situation is improving.

(i) Terrorists are very much suppressed;
(ii) Relief is going;
(iii) We are planning to return many people back to their homes;
(iv) And to dissolve IDPs.

We had 1.6 million people in camps. By December, 2005 we shall be sending about 1 million back to their homes. Only those who hail from near the border with Sudan will stay in camps until we have accounted for all the terrorists inside Sudan.

That is my point on LRA.

Ituri armed groups

Now, regarding Ituri armed groups, we totally support the transitional government of Congo. We are the ones who helped the Congolese to agree because some of the people did not want to join the transitional government, we had to do a lot of persuasion and pleading with these people, like Jean Pierre Bemba (now one of the four Congolese Vice Presidents), until they formed a transitional government.

We totally support the process leading to elections so that after 45 years, there can be a legitimate government in Congo because there has not been a legitimate government in Congo since the murder of Patrice Lumumba in January 1960. After 45 years, any friend of Congo and from Africa, would like the people of Congo to reassert their sovereignty.

The tribes in Congo are very close with our tribes. I can go to Bunia and address a public meeting in my language.

All these people close to us, we are telling them, "Elections .... Elections ... elections ..." is the medicine for Congo, not war. That is what we told people who came here, "please, work for elections".

But I always see in the papers and Statements innuendos that Uganda is not supporting the peace process in Congo; but we are the ones who negotiated the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement which provided for transitional government, elections etc.

We support the transitional government, elections etc. If Mr. Kabila came here, we would go to the border and address people on the two sides of the border, if that would help.

But in the case of Ituri, we saw one problem which we told you about many months ago; the problem was as follows:

In the case of Burundi and in the case of South Africa, we used what we called "immunité provisoire", provisional immunity/transitional justice.

- In Burundi, we knew that all these people were killers; the Tutsi army, all the rebel groups etc. If we were to start with "justice before peace", it would be a problem. In Burundi, we said "everybody must be accorded immunité provisoire" so that:

  (a) first, we get peace;
  (b) then, we get elections;
  (c) which elections would then give us legitimacy;
  (d) and then, we can now go back and look at justice.

- That's what we did in South Africa when Nelson Mandela was talking to Whites – all these Whites were killers. But Mandela had to pretend that they were not killers and negotiate with them and get the settlement, and then have elections and then the Truth and Reconciliation Commission afterwards.

In the case of Ituri, people were mixing issues and people started running away. We spoke to Mr. Swing and I wrote to many of you about that. I don't know what happened; I didn't follow up.

That was our opinion. If you didn't take it, we are not really very close in the process, so we don't know.

Border controls, alleged arms trafficking, need liaison

When you say we should monitor the border; we monitor the border. We are accommodating you; we gave our airport to MONUC group; there is a large contingent of theirs.

If they have information, why don't they liaise with us?

I heard UN people in your Office in Kampala are now spying on us! So, we are hosting spies?! Very indisciplined way of work! I host you and you spy on me? Are you an Inspector?

This is really arrogance! Why don't we work together? Let's liaise. Let's form a joint team and go and check.

If you want to control arms trafficking into Congo, let us work on it together.

We are a sovereign state and not a mandate of the UN.

Latin American Spy (Ms. Muriel Rodriguez, Political Affairs Officer)

I hear there is a young girl from South America; she left school recently. She is coming here to learn how to be a diplomat; just amateurs!

I know there are no arms going through here except if they are being smuggled. If they are being smuggled, by who? Let's work together.

We gave you permission to use our facilities, I don't know whether you are paying any money, this is because you were coming to help our brothers and sisters. I am not a merchant, I wanted you to help our people; these are our brothers and sisters but they (MONUC) send false reports to you.

There is a French man in New York under Kofi Anan, called Gehena, Under Secretary for Peace-keeping Operations; that Gehena is a consumer of false reports, just rubbish!

I said some UN people could get a prize for literature for composing stories and fiction. I want to nominate them for fiction.

We are really wasting time. There is no way Ituri groups can get arms from here. If anybody is smuggling or corrupt, we should work together but not come to spy on us; it is not a correct way of working.

B u r u n d i

What's my view of what is needed in Burundi? The President of Burundi was here. This is an extrapolation from what we talked about, otherwise I wouldn't have known. Our work was to usher in legitimacy, we are not following.

(i) His main concern is r e s o u r c e s i.e money.

(ii) The second one could be like technical assistance, at their own request. We shall try to give them what we can, other countries also can give.

Those two needs of Burundi from what their President told me when he was here (N.B: H.E President Pierre Nkurunziza graced the celebrations of Uganda's 43rd Independence Anniversary on 9th October, 2005).

Your Excellencies, these are my few remarks. With these few remarks, I conclude my Statement.

After H.E The President's Statement, the CHAIRMAN OF THE UN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE made a presentation in which he said that he wished:

- to raise the issue of the arms embargo imposed by the UN Security Council on the eastern part of the DRC;

- to brief H.E The President on the activities of this Committee established last year (2004).

He reported that the UN Security Council imposed an arms embargo and asked all member states and in particular states neighbouring Congo to take concrete measures to ensure full implementation of the arms embargo.

He said that the Group of Experts was established with a mission to:

- investigate violations of the arms embargo; and

- report to the UN Sanctions Committee and to the UN Security Council.

He said that last year (2004), they had the first Report by the Group of Experts which:

- established that there was unsatisfactory enforcement of the arms embargo, that there were flows of arms into the eastern part of DRC.

- Concluded that neighbouring countries were not cooperating enough with the Group of Experts.

- Raised concerns by neighbouring countries about the working methods of the Group of Experts.

He said that the Sanctions Committee engaged in New York in dialogue with the Permanent Representatives of

neighbouring countries including a country like South Africa, to see how to improve the relationship and working methods of the Group of Experts with neighbouring countries.[1]

He concurred with H.E The President that all countries are sovereign countries, the UN just needs to seek cooperation for implementation of the arms embargo.

He acknowledged once again that there are some working methods of the UN Group of Experts which needed to be improved. He said they had given the Group of Experts new directives in order to arrive at better cooperation with neighbouring countries. He reported that this had in fact been productive because:

- they got better cooperation from neighbouring states;

- the Group of Experts managed to identify individuals and entities who had violated the UN arms embargo; and the sanctions Committee imposed sanctions on 15 individuals and one entity that violated the arms embargo. (*See attached list*)

He disclosed that the latest report from the Group of Experts:

- established that there is better cooperation with neighbouring countries.

- Concluded that this cooperation should be enhanced.

[1] The main concerns regarding the working methods of the UN Group of Experts on the Arms Embargo are that:

(i) they are high-handed, acting as if they were UN inspectors and as if sovereign states are under tutelage of the UN;
(ii) their visits are too brief to permit meaningful interaction eg they often fail to show up at wrap up sessions;
(iii) they come with allegations lacking substance that would otherwise facilitate verification and they claim that they are protecting their sources.
(iv) They come with biases which they don't change even when furnished with incontrovertible evidence.

He said that in the same spirit of cooperation, he was seeking assistance of all states neighbouring DRC to ensure full implementation of the arms embargo.

In response to the remarks of the Chairman of the UN Sanctions Committee, H.E The President advised as follows:

May I give you some advice as an expert who is not paid?

If you really want to control the inflow of arms into eastern DRC, could you kindly do four things, or help the Congolese government to do four things.

(a) when we were in Congo, we saw the smuggling of arms by light aircraft that could land on the numerous airstrips[2]. We had to stop Sudan from landing weapons on these airstrips (arms intended for ADF/NALU terrorists against Uganda).

(b) When MONUC came in to take over from us, our advice to them was to control the air space putting radar stations (to see the aircraft); and/or helping Congo government to have air surveillance.

(c) When the French came here leading the multinational force for Opération Artemis, we gave them a base, they stayed in Bunia for a few months and were having Mirage planes operating out of Chad and stopping the inflow of arms and because of that, the arms-laden light aircraft were no longer landing there.

You should, therefore, have four things: This will be a four-dimensional approach.

- **air surveillance;**

- **radar** to detect people coming by plane from any direction;

[2] Eastern DRC has 325 airstrips

- put some **boats** on the lakes, because the lakes can be used for smuggling, like L.Albert, L.Kivu, L.Tanganyika, L.Edward etc.

- smuggling through **land** borders, can also be looked at (people smuggling using trucks); we can cooperate with you.

Let's be serious. We are ready to work with the UN group in Congo, Ituri, North Kivu, on the land borders and even may be on the water. But what we cannot talk about is the air. Some of these aircraft can be C-130 or Antonov and can start from anywhere. Our recommendation is therefore, a radar and:or air surveillance.

Question from the Danish Ambassador

(i) **information sharing**

On her part, the Danish PR, Ms. Ellen Margrethe, said she had taken careful note about the LRA national park.

She said that they got clear impression during their visit in DRC that government was aware that the situation in the North East was not only a problem of security of neighbouring states but also a problem of Congo; that's why they deployed in the area.

She urged the Government of Uganda to share its information with the Government of Congo.

(ii) **Use of force**

She then reminded H.E The President that "use of force against another country's territory is centrally to the UN Charter". She called for dialogue to be carried out in this area.

(iii) **Indictement**

She added that 5 LRA elements had been indicted by the ICC. She appealed to state parties and the international community to execute the arrest warrant so that these elements are brought to justice.

(iv) **Peaceful settlement**

She however, requested that this should not close the door to peaceful settlement with the rest of the LRA; she called for continued offer of amnesty to low ranking officers in the LRA, assisting them in reintegrating into their villages and being able to make a living. She called for extension of the duration of the Amnesty Act.

(v) **Humanitarian situation**

On the humanitarian situation, she said she would not start an argument as to whether it has improved and by how much. She said she would not argue with the President whether it has improved or declined since the President visits there on regular basis. She nonetheless asserted that it is VERY BAD! She singled out the security situation for aid workers as being VERY BAD as incidents in the last few days had shown where Ugandan aid workers and a foreign national had been killed.

She expressed the hope that the Government of Uganda will do what it can to protect aid workers and ensure that assistance to those in camps is delivered to them.

She hinted on the programme that the Government is starting of the return of IDPs to their villages in the southern part of the Northern region; she expressed the hope that it takes place without any security risks.

She asked whether there is anything they at the UN in New York and the international community can do to ameliorate

the situation for people in the North, both in camps where conditions are appalling, and those returning to their homes.

In response to the Danish Ambassador H.E The President stated as follows:

To answer your question, I have a very long partner, the WFP, I think he (the Country Director, Keyne Davis) could give us – tell us what he thinks is lacking – he is your employee here.

Let me first hear what he says.

WFP Country Director, Keyne Davis:

Mr. Keyne Davis said the UN system welcomes sitting down with H.E The President in the week ending 19/11/05 and talk about things in detail.

He reported that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights had opened an office in Uganda to work with the Uganda Human Rights Commission and the Uganda Amnesty Commission:

- to discuss the question of justice in the context of the Amnesty Act;

- to see the ICC warrants of arrest executed – that those who have been indicted by the ICC are brought justice in a short time.

On the humanitarian situation in camps, he said it had improved. He said people are accessing more land. But that security is still a problem for people in camps. He said that one of the major needs is to provide adequate security to allow people return to their homes.

He stressed that the situation in camps is not good, the sooner people return to their homes the better.

H.E The President interjected to ask him directly whether WFP was able to deliver relief to any camp/or place?

The WFP Country Director reported that WFP food convoys are always accompanied by UPDF escorts and they are able to reach all camps everywhere.

He hastened to clarify that a number of NGOs that do not travel with escorts, find it hard to deliver humanitarian assistance. He expressed worry about the recent attacks on aid workers which he said was being interpreted as LRA response to ICC warrant of arrest. He cited a Swiss Demining Team that was coming from Juba to Nimule and two of the deminers were killed.

H.E The President interjected again to ask why some NGOs travel without escorts?

The WFP Country Director replied that it is their own choice for some of them and in some cases adequate escort is not available. He said in Sudan the front vehicle is the one which was attached by LRA.***H.E The President clarified, "that is Sudan, but in Uganda you are able to deliver food and relief anywhere as WFP".***

The WFP Country Director stated once again that WFP is able to deliver relief to all camps and all places.

At this juncture, H.E The President said he did not want to give his own views. He said he wanted this friend of his to speak first.

Having accorded an opportunity to the WFP Country Director to speak on the matter from an independent standpoint, H.E The President clarified that if there is any humanitarian problem, it must be because of resources.

He then turned to the Ambassador of Denmark who had asked the question on the humanitarian needs: He told her, we need:

- resources to relocate people back to their homes;
- food for looking after people who are still in the camps

He said "the rest we shall sort out ourselves as we normally do", he asserted that "security, we can provide".

He said, what we need are more resources; we have a 12-Point Plan, we gave it to the EU, to USAID (during H.E The President's recent visit to Washington).

He further clarified that any incident that involves an aid worker is because that aid work is not escorted; and they are not escorted partly on their own choice . He cited the example of the rafter who was killed on 08/11/05 as he had left behind his escort.

He explained that the terrorists have been defeated but that there are remnants. He said the aid worker who had travelled without escort was killed by two people.

On this note, he advised that it is important that the army people in that area give guidelines on how people should travel; and stop them if they do not adhere to the guidelines. He directed the army not to allow people to travel in that area which is not a free ranging place where they can do what they like.

He said the illfated rafters had been in a place that had not been opened up for activities i.e the eastern part of Murchison Falls National Park. One, they were in that area, and two, they had escort but left it behind. He stressed the need for the army to issue guidelines.

Dr. Mahinga, PR of Tanzania, member of the UN Security Council Mission, requested to dwell on a point that H.E The President had made about the problems in the Great Lakes Region and partnership with the UN.

He addressed the political part of it. He assured that what he witnessed in DRC in respect of organisation of elections "is monumental and unprecedented" for a country the size of

Western Europe, without roads, but managing to register 20 million people. He said logistics in place were massive.

He also talked about the stability in the transitional process in Burundi; all this, he said, with the partnership of the UN.

He said it is totally unprecedented to build an entirely new army literally from scratch, he said, under tutelage of the UN.

He observed that the problems of the Great Lakes Region are internal with regional consequences.

Referring to what H.E The President had called the "preservation area for terrorists, Dr. Muhinga said the very presence of armed people in another country is a threat to the population, integrity of government and of the neighbouring states.

He said the successful joint operation between DRC and the UN at the Western Border – in Ituri and Aba, will be emulated.

Explaining integrated missions in the UN, he said that apart from peace – keeping, the UN also carries out important functions like organising elections, transitional justice, human rights, humanitarian respect, to respond to the complex demands of a country going through a crisis.

He said the UN is now thinking of post-conflict Congo in terms of a Peace Building Commission.

On Tanzania's presence in the UN security Council, he said that Tanzania being a member country of the Great lakes Region, will continue to seek advice , will need closer liaison and cooperation; and will work together with the countries of the region and especially with Uganda, and President Museveni in particular.

This was the last submission after which H.E The President and Head of the UN Security Council Mission addressed a Joint Press Conference.

PRESS CONFERENCE

SIMON KASIATE FROM THE DAILY MONITOR asked:

1. **whether PRA exists in DRC and their numbers;**
2. **why interested parties like Uganda were denied authority to intervene in Congo to disarm the negative forces after the failure of MONUC**

Amb William Swing, Special Reprehensive of the UN secretary General replied that indeed PRA exists in DRC and that the estimated (no census) number of elements of Ugandan rebel groups (ADF/NALU, PRA, LRA) is 2,000. He said the LRA was in Aba in Garamba national park in DRC and that they were moving in very small groups around Aru area.

He reported that MONUC had managed to repatriate 12,000 people from DRC, out of whom 8,000 were Rwandese while 6-800 were members of West Nile Bank Front, who returned in April, 2005. He added that 3,000 Burundians had returned home out of their own volition without UN assistance.

He said there are altogether 18,500 negative forces remaining in eastern DRC.

The French PR heading the UN Security Council Mission said the voluntary approach had reached an end. He said it is important now that since it is mainly a Congolese problem, the Congolese army with the support of MONUC should engage in more robust action against the negative forces.

He reported that in 2004, the UNSC introduced changes in the mandate of MONUC and that in the recent period new

integrated brigades of the Congolese army with the support of MONUC had registered success in Garamba national park.

He said the policy of the UN is to assist the Congolese set up integrated brigades and assist them in operations.

REUTERS asked a question which H.E The President answered as follows:

Some months ago, I wrote to the leaders of the countries who are in the UN Security Council: the Americans, British, French, Chinese and Russians; the Permanent members.

In that document , I gave different options as follows:

(i) **strengthening the mandate of MONUC is one option, to make them fight those terrorists;**

(ii) **the other option is to ask a 3rd party or another party, to come and deal specifically with these terrorists, like for instance, in the case of that new country, East Timor, they asked Australia to come and deal with that particular problem, with a mandate to kill militia;**

(iii) **third option: cooperation between neighbouring countries, Uganda, Rwanda etc (Uganda and Sudan are cooperating and coordinating in hunting down the LRA in Sudan);**

(iv) **the fourth option could be the AU like in the case of Burundi where we asked South Africa to provide a protection force which came and stayed in Bujumbura to allow Hutu exiles to go back home. Under my Chairmanship, we asked South Africa to provide security so that**

the Hutus go back, hold elections etc. The Force had mandate to deal with trouble makers.

What I cannot accept is to sit there and there is no solution or that we have a weak option which does not offer a solution and we go on endlessly.

Certainly MONUC has helped the process inside Congo to move. They have enabled people inside Congo by partly providing security and partly providing money to help people register in Congo; 20 million people have registered so far.

But on the border, there is still dialogue with them. We had quite useful dialogue this morning with the UNSC Mission. Let's wait for results after they have digested all this.

HENRY WASSWA OF ASSOCIATED PRESS
He asked what had been discussed between H.E The President and the UN Security Council Mission; he also asked what follow up the UN had accorded to Uganda's request to enter Congo and deal with LRA?

H.E The President denied having made the request to enter Congo to deal with LRA.

The Head of Mission of the UN Security Council informed the members of the press that they had discussed with H.E The President:

(i) cooperation between Uganda and the UN;

(ii) the situation in the region, particularly in eastern part of Congo;

(iii) brief on the visit to Congo and Burundi by the Mission.

A SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNALIST asked H.E The President

- **about the recent LRA ambush in Northern Uganda;**
- **whether H.E The President would contest in the forthcoming Presidential elections**

H.E The President reported that on 08/11/05 there was an attack by two armed people; they attacked a vehicle in which some rafters whose boat had had an accident in the north --- the rafters had gone into the part of the north that had not been used recently and then their boat got involved in an accident. They called for help. Soldiers (UPDF) came to their rescue and helped them retrieve the boat from the river where the accident occurred. While retrieving the boat, a part of the rafters got impatient – they had an appointment somewhere – they went without escorts, they met two LRA remnants.

He said the operation against terrorists defeated the terrorists but that some remnants in 3 or 4 gangs of about 12 people each have remained fugitive, being chased and they hide.

He said the rafters met 2 of the LRA remnants. He said the 4 rafters who were involved in the accident but were assisted by army escorts, were slightly improving and that he had spoken to them on phone on the morning of 09/11/05.

H.E The President repeated that he would tell the army to give guidelines especially to foreigners to move under certain guidelines because there are remnants of LRA.

On contesting the Presidency, H.E The President said "we shall sort that out when time comes".

BARBRA OF THE EAST AFRICAN NEWSPAPER sought the UN Security Council Mission's assessment of the LRA in the northern part of Uganda:

Response by the Head of the UNSC Mission:

There is no complete progress against LRA.
The Mission has no military assessment.
There is a lot of progress but there are still difficulties eg the humanitarian situation is an issue of concern. There is need for improved protection of relief workers.
There was a discussion on the remaining group in Sudan and a small group that entered DRC; the latter will be dealt with by the Congolese government with the assistance of MONUC.

OMAR MUTASA, RADIO DEUTSCHWELLE:
Asked about the failure of MONUC and also what response the UN gave to the recent letter from the Tripartite Plus Joint Commission asking for MONUC's mandate to be enhanced

H.E The President answered the question in Kiswahili as it was posed in Swahili.

He said MONUC has managed to help the transitional government prepare elections and that MONUC should be commended for that.

He said the problem is the armed groups in eastern DRC. He said MONUC had not failed but that they had not finished the job.

The UN Mission response on the TPJC letter was that there was a discussion on 09/11/05 in the UN Security Council on a new Resolution. The UNSC is about to decide on sanctions that will be adopted against armed groups who refused to disarm. On the new mandate for MONUC the response was

that Council will ask the UN Secretary General to study the TPJC Letter and make recommendations.